

April 8, 2024

Dear Fellow Election Commissioners and Supervisor Rickert:

In the six months since this commission was formed, we have made absolutely no progress in objectively reviewing the work, processes, and laws surrounding our local elections. We have not reviewed nor analyzed as a body any of the claims brought forth regarding incongruities to the voter rolls, nor have we formally analyzed any of the other claims of fraud or malfeasance brought to us. Leaving such strong, but likely false, allegations languishing in our community is an extreme disservice to the citizens and to the democratic processes we should revere and hold sacred.

While I hold regard for the individuals serving on this commission, its function as a commission has not produced the quality nor accuracy of work our community deserves. From the outset, this commission has forsaken the most critical of relationships with our Registrar of Voters-- a source of experience and education inextricably linked to any suggested reforms this body might provide to the county. It is one of the most disrespectful aspects of this commission's work to date. This commission has also shown a dangerous disregard for the recommendations from its legal counsel and its administrative staff. The degree of hubris it takes to ignore the experience, education, knowledge and wisdom of this many professionals who have dedicated their entire careers to local governance is astounding and deeply embarrassing.

This disregard for the laws governing our elections processes has been further exacerbated by individual commissioners acting of their own accord and outside the framework of the commission, as well as state and federal laws surrounding election law and political practices. This commission is now facing another conflict of interest as a commissioner has acted as a declarant in a legal case against our registrar of voters.

What recommendations we have made to the Board of Supervisors were not based in fact, and we have been informed by the the Attorney General that our recommendations are inconsistent with the law. As someone who wholly believes in the value of local governance, it is unconscionable to me that this commission has brought scrutiny to us locally from state and federal agencies who are now set to intervene because of our collective ignorance and ineptitude in governance.

I do not see a clear path to the work we were created to do, nor a framework through which quality work can be produced. Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from the Shasta County Elections Commission.

Sincerely,

Susanne Baremore